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PROJECT HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTIVE 50-3055-4

OPERATIONS
15 JUNE 1964

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR NON-OPERATIONAL A-12 FLIGHTS

(This Directive Supersedes Project Headquarters

Directive 50-3055-4 dated 17 August 1962)

I. PURPOSE:

To establish emergency procedures to be used in the
event of:

- A. A-12 inflight emergencies.
- B. A-12 accident or loss within the [REDACTED] boundary. 25X1A
- C. A-12 overdue/missing.
- D. A-12 accident investigation and reporting procedures.

II. SCOPE:

These procedures apply to the following:

- 25X1A A. Project Headquarters
- B. [REDACTED]
 - 1. Commander
 - 2. A-12 pilots
 - 25X1A 3. LAC Operating at [REDACTED]
- C. Supporting Agencies:
 - 1. AFIGO-S
 - 2. DIG/Safety
 - 3. NORAD

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4. FAA
5. Air Rescue Service
6. AFFTC

III. RESPONSIBILITY:

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A. The [REDACTED] Commander is responsible for the implementation of these procedures.

B. The designated supporting agencies have agreed to assume responsibility for fulfilling their role as specified herein.

C. The Commander of AFFTC directing F-12 flying operations is responsible for implementing procedures that are compatible with this directive. AFFTC will provide Project Headquarters copies of any implementing directives that may be published.

IV. POLICY:

A. Maximum precautionary measures will be taken to protect the security of the project, the A-12 aircraft, and the pilot. Toward this end, all queries received from non-cleared persons regarding any aircraft emergency will be referred to the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D. C.

B. Generally, USAF directives will be used as a guide for aircraft accident, investigation, and reporting except as amended herein. Project Headquarters will resolve all conflicts between USAF directives and stated or suspected security cover restrictions.

V. PILOT PREFLIGHT BRIEFING:

A. Pilots will be briefed prior to each flight regarding the following:

1. Pilot emergency procedures as prescribed 25X1C herein.



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3. Emergency Packet:

a. Each pilot will be issued an emergency packet containing the following items:

- (1) Instructions to the pilot (Att 1)
- (2) Letters of Introduction:
 - (a) To USAFB Commanders (Att 2)
 - (b) To Whom It May Concern (Att 3)
 - (c) U. S. Currency as required.

b. It is the responsibility of the [REDACTED] Commander and the AFFTC Commander to prepare, maintain, and issue emergency packets. Packets will be drawn by pilots prior to each flight and returned during the flight debriefing. Packets will be opened only in emergencies.

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VI. DEFINITIONS:

25X1A A. [REDACTED] followed by any two digits is the aircraft tactical call sign which is assigned to A-12/F-12 aircraft.

1. Two digits in the block from 10 to 49 will be assigned to A-12 aircraft.

25X1A 2. Two digits in the block from 50 to 99 will be assigned to F-12 aircraft.

25X1A B. [REDACTED] is the assigned call sign for the [REDACTED] airdrome Command Post.

25X1A C. [REDACTED] is the assigned call sign for the [REDACTED] airdrome control tower.

25X1A D. [REDACTED] is the assigned call sign for the F-12 flight operations at Edwards AFB.

VII. A-12 INFLIGHT EMERGENCIES:

25X1A A. EMERGENCY LANDING AT OTHER THAN [REDACTED]

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1. Pilot Procedures:

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a. If an inflight emergency situation dictates landing at other than the [REDACTED] airdrome, the pilot will first contact one of the following facilities in order of priority, dependent upon radio range:

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- (1) Priority 1: [REDACTED]
- (2) Priority 2: NORAD facility
(ADC AC&W site)
- (3) Priority 3: FAA facility (ARTCC)
- (4) Priority 4: Any Air Force Base tower

b. The pilot will:

- (1) Identify his aircraft using assigned tactical call sign.
- (2) Give aircraft type (F-12)
- (3) Declare an emergency.
- (4) Give aircraft position.
- (5) State his intentions.
- (6) Request assistance as appropriate.
- (7) Request that message be relayed as appropriate.

(a) to Senior Controller, NORAD COC.

(b) to Los Angeles ARTCC.

c. SAMPLE MESSAGE:

25X1A

25X1A

(1) To NORAD facility: [REDACTED] THIS IS [REDACTED] TWO FOUR AN F-12 AIRCRAFT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. MY POSITION FIVE ZERO NORTH OF OGDEN. PLAN TO LAND HILL AFB. PASS TO SENIOR CONTROLLER, NORAD COC."

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25X1A

(2) To FAA facility: "SALT LAKE CENTER, THIS IS [REDACTED] TWO FOUR AN F-12 AIRCRAFT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. MY POSITION FIVE ZERO NORTH OF OGDEN. PLAN TO LAND HILL AFB. PASS TO LOS ANGELES CENTER."

d. After taking the above action, the pilot will contact the control tower of the base of intended landing and:

(1) Declare an emergency.

(2) State he is an F-12 aircraft.

(3) Request maximum security for the aircraft.

e. Upon landing the pilot will:

(1) Present the base commander with the appropriate letter of instructions.

(2) Assist in securing the aircraft.

(3) Accomplish briefing instructions.

B. CRASH LANDING

1. PILOT ACTION:

If crash landing is imminent the pilot will:

a. Select emergency mode on SIF.

b. Attempt to contact one of the facilities listed in para VII. A. 1. a. above [REDACTED] NORAD facility, FAA facility) using the appropriate message content to suit the situation.

c. After crash landing, follow the briefing instructions in emergency packet.

C. BAILOUT

1. Pilot Action:

If the situation dictates bailout the pilot will:

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- 25X1A
- a. Select emergency mode on SIF.
 - b. Prior to bailout attempt to contact one of the facilities listed in para VII. A. 1. a. above ([REDACTED] NORAD facility, FAA facility) using the appropriate message format and modifying the message content to suit the situation.
 - c. Maintain radio contact until bailout and if possible give the following information just prior to bailout:
 - (1) Altitude (use indicated altitude below FL 500. Above FL 500 use base altitude of fifty thousand feet. Example: for FL 600 report base plus 10).
 - (2) Heading
 - (3) Speed
 - d. After landing follow briefing instructions in emergency packet.

D. LOSS OF TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

1. The A-12 pilot will take the most appropriate action based upon his best judgment and the prevailing circumstances. Generally, the procedures outlined in FLIP ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT will be followed. Exceptions are below:

- 25X1A
- a. Situation permits returning to [REDACTED]
 - 25X1A (1) Circumstances permitting, return directly to the terminal fix at [REDACTED] and enter the established holding pattern at appropriate altitude.
 - (2) After one circuit of the holding pattern execute the appropriate triangular pattern described in FLIP ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT with SIF operating in emergency mode. Execute the pattern twice, circumstances permitting.
 - (3) If one-way communications are not established execute a standard penetration and approach to minimum altitude for the type approach. Make fly-by with radio-out maneuver and land.

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25X1A (4) If one-way communications are established follow [REDACTED] instructions for penetration and approach.

b. Situation requires assistance:

(1) Descend to FL 450, gear down if possible.

(2) With SIF operating on the emergency mode execute the appropriate triangular pattern described in FLIP ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT. Monitor UHF frequency, 243.0 mc.

(3) Comply with the appropriate provision of FLIP ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT.

E. NORAD ACTION (INFLIGHT EMERGENCY):

1. Upon receipt of an F-12 emergency message:

a. ADC site contacted will immediately pass message to Senior Controller, NORAD COC. Standby to render assistance in vectoring and clearing aircraft as required.

25X1A b. Senior Controller, NORAD COC will immediately pass message to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 25X1A

F. FAA ACTION (INFLIGHT EMERGENCY):

1. Upon receipt of an F-12 emergency message:

a. ARTCC contacted will immediately pass message to Los Angeles Center.

b. Los Angeles will immediately pass message to Senior Controller, NORAD COC.

25X1A c. Senior Controller, NORAD COC will
25X1A immediately pass message to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

25X1A G. [REDACTED] COMMANDER ACTION (INFLIGHT EMERGENCY):

25X1A 25X1A Upon receipt of an F-12 emergency message or other notification of an F-12/A-12 inflight emergency the [REDACTED] Commander will notify [REDACTED] and:

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25X1A

1. A-12 Landing at [REDACTED]:

a. Alert appropriate base facilities to prepare for any eventuality.

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b. Notify Project Headquarters at discretion of [REDACTED] Commander.

25X1A

2. A-12 Landing at other than [REDACTED]:

a. Notify Project Headquarters.

25X1A

b. Contact the base commander of the base (or airport manager if civil field) of intended landing and request maximum security for the A-12 and pilot. (As appropriate, the [REDACTED] Commander [REDACTED])

25X1C

25X1C c. Dispatch a pre-recovery team to assist [REDACTED]

3. A-12 Crash Landing:

a. Initiate search and rescue as required (see para X.)

b. Implement the procedures outlined in para IX. C.

4. A-12 Bailout:

a. Initiate search and rescue as required (see para X.)

b. Implement the procedures outlined in para IX. C.

H. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ACTION (INFLIGHT EMERGENCY):

1. Project Headquarters will immediately notify:

a. AFIGO-S

b. AEC officials as appropriate.

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~~TOP SECRET~~I. AFIGO-S ACTION (INFLIGHT EMERGENCY):

1. AFIGO-S will immediately:

a. Dispatch a message to the base commander of the base of intended A-12 landing which will reiterate the requirement for maximum security and assistance and that any request for news releases will be referred to the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D. C.

b. Notify the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Under Secretary of the Air Force.

c. Notify USAF IG as appropriate.

25X1A VIII. A-12 ACCIDENT OR LOSS WITHIN THE [REDACTED] BOUNDARY:25X1A A. [REDACTED] COMMANDER ACTION:

1. Notify Project Headquarters.

2. Implement necessary security and recovery procedures for the pilot and aircraft.

3. Launch assigned helicopter as required for rescue.

25X1A 4. Request additional rescue support from [REDACTED] as required.

25X1A 5. Request medical or reclamation support from [REDACTED] as required.

6. Notify cleared DIG/Safety contact as required.

B. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ACTION:

1. Notify AFIGO-S

2. Notify AEC officials as appropriate.

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~~TOP SECRET~~C. AFIGO-S ACTION:

1. Notify the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Under Secretary of the Air Force.

2. Notify USAF IG as appropriate.

IX. A-12 OVERDUE/MISSING:

A. If an A-12 aircraft is not heard from within thirty minutes of a scheduled report or arrival it will be designated as OVERDUE. The following actions will apply:

25X1A

1. COMMANDER ACTION:

a. Notify Project Headquarters.

b. Initiate communications search (see para X.)

c. Alert DIG/Safety contact.

25X1A

d. Notify [REDACTED]

2. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ACTION:

Notify AFIGO-S

3. AFIGO-S ACTION:

Notify Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and Under Secretary of the Air Force.

B. If the A-12 aircraft is not located within one (1) hour of a scheduled report or arrival it will be designated as MISSING. The following actions will apply:

25X1A

1. COMMANDER ACTION:

a. Notify Project Headquarters.

b. Initiate search and rescue (see para X.)

c. Notify DIG/Safety contact.

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2. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ACTION:

Notify AFIGO-S

3. AFIGO-S ACTION:

Notify the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Under Secretary of the Air Force.

C. Upon location of the A-12 crash the following actions will apply:


25X1A

1. COMMANDER ACTION:

a. Notify Project Headquarters.

25X1A

b. Notify DIG/Safety contact.

c. Notify 

d. Dispatch a pre-recovery team to the nearest suitable airbase to assist in securing


25X1C

2. DIG/SAFETY ACTION:

a. Direct the AFB Commander nearest to the A-12 crash to secure the wreckage and to the greatest extent possible to preclude any news releases or photographs. Inform the AFB Commander that any query for information will be referred to the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D. C.

b. Inform the AFB Commander nearest to the A-12 crash that DIG/Safety will dispatch a special team to conduct the accident investigation.

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c. Dispatch an accident investigation officer in coordination with the  Commander.

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~~TOP SECRET~~3. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ACTION:

- a. Notify AFIGO-S
- b. Notify AEC officials as appropriate.

4. AFIGO-S ACTION:

- a. Notify the Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Under Secretary of the Air Force.
- b. Notify the USAF IG.

25X1A D. The accident investigation team will be formed at [REDACTED] and will be under the direct control of the [REDACTED] 25X1A
Commander. Team captain will be the DIG/Safety investigation officer. Team composition will include a security officer, 25X1A
senior LAC technical representative and such other technical 25X1A
people as are deemed necessary by the [REDACTED] Commander and the [REDACTED] Flight Test Center.

X. SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES:

25X1A A. Search and rescue support will be initiated by the [REDACTED] Commander as required whenever an A-12 is overdue or missing or has crashed but the location is unknown.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] COMMANDER ACTION:

a. Initiate communications search for [REDACTED] 25X1A
or F-12 emergency traffic through Senior Controller, NORAD COC.

b. Initiate search and rescue as required through Senior Controller, NORAD COC.

(1) Message content for initiating search and rescue:

- (a) Aircraft type (F-12)
- (b) Aircraft tactical call sign
- (c) Aircraft tail number.

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(d) Situation (missing, overdue, or crashed but location unknown).

(e) Number of crew members.

(f) Aircraft flight plan (adjusted as necessary so as not to compromise aircraft performance characteristics).

(2) SAMPLE MESSAGE:

25X1A "THIS IS AN F-12 EMERGENCY MESSAGE.
[REDACTED] TWO FOUR. TAIL NUMBER 6817.
AIRCRAFT MISSING. ONE CREW MEMBER.
FLIGHT PLAN FOLLOWS -----."

2. NORAD COC ACTION:

a. Take necessary action to query appropriate military/civil facilities for F-12 emergency traffic.

b. Direct search and rescue through appropriate Air Rescue Center. (Pass the identical message as received from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]).

25X1A

25X1A

c. Immediately relay all F-12 emergency messages received to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

25X1A

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3. AIR RESCUE CENTER ACTION:

a. Immediately conduct communications search for F-12 emergency traffic and advise NORAD COC.

b. Alert SAR search force.

c. Appoint mission commander and maintain mission operational control.

d. Conduct search and rescue as directed by Senior Controller, NORAD COC.

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e. Brief SAR aircrews that no operational reports will be made until aircraft sighting has been made. Upon making an aircraft sighting, the SAR crew will be briefed to contact the nearest ADC AC&W site and request the sighting information to be passed to Senior Controller, NORAD COC. Sample message follows:

"BETWEEN CONTROL, THIS IS AF 46172. THIS IS AN F-12 EMERGENCY MESSAGE. PASS TO SENIOR CONTROLLER, NORAD COC (nature of sighting, position, time, condition of aircraft, crew members, etc.)"

f. If aircraft sighting is made in an inaccessible area, the appropriate Air Rescue Center will provide for the security of the aircraft and assistance of the crew members.

XI. INCIDENT/ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION:

25X1A A. All accidents and incidents will be reported only to Project Headquarters, giving all pertinent information concerning the mishap. Preliminary reports will be dispatched to Project Headquarters by [REDACTED] message with an EMERGENCY precedence. Reporting formats outlined in AFR 127-4 may be amended as necessary. Project Headquarters will arrange for distribution of reports to outside agencies as appropriate.

B. Project Headquarters will direct further action after receipt of preliminary reports; i.e., whether or not an accident board must be convened for formal investigation, notification of next of kin, etc.

C. If an accident investigation is made as directed by Project Headquarters, all copies of AF Form 711, USAF Accident/Incident Report will be distributed through Project Headquarters.

25X1A D. Reports of informal investigation will be retained by the [REDACTED] Commander unless requested by Project Headquarters. No distribution of such reports will be made to anyone without approval of Project Headquarters.

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E. Accidents and/or incidents will be reported monthly.
Negative reports are required.

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OFFICIAL:


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Attachments - 3

- 1 - Pilot Instructions
- 2 - Ltr of Introduction (To USAFB Cdrs)
- 3 - Ltr of Introduction (To Whom It May Concern)

Distribution:

- #1, #2, #3 -  25X1A
- #4 - NORAD
- #5 - DIG/Safety
- #6 - AFIGO-S
- #7 - ASD, Wright-Patterson AFB
- #8 - AFFTC, F-12 Operations
- #9 - AD/OSA
- #10- D/FA/OSA
- #11- SS/OSA
- #12- SAL/OSA
- #13- CC/OSA
- #14- OXC/OSA
- #15- OXC/OSA
- #16- OXC/OSA
- #17- RB/OSA

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